

The MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE presents:

# CRITICAL COMPONENTS TO FIRST-RATE REPRESENTATION OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Friday, February 1, 2008  
MCLE, Boston

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME

8:45 **GREETING:** *Barbara A. Leadholm*, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health

8:50 **KEYNOTE:** *Laurie Martinelli*, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness in Massachusetts

9:15 **HOT TOPICS IN PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY**

Dr. Salzman will present a review of updated literature, prescribing practices and legal implications for clinicians and attorneys of the following topics: 1) anti-depressants and suicide, 2) current use of antipsychotic drugs in the elderly, 3) new vs. old antipsychotics for non-geriatric patients, 4) the pros and cons of Benzodiazepines.

*Carl Salzman, M.D.*, Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

11:00 **ASSESSING RISK**

Expert clinicians will discuss the general principles of assessing the risk for violent behavior in both adult and juvenile populations, and will focus on how people make judgments about risk, the risk assessment process, risk assessment in specific settings, and courtroom assessments of the potential for aggression.

*Judith G. Edersheim, J.D., M.D.*, Instructor in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; Senior Consultant, Law and Psychiatry Service, Massachusetts General Hospital

*Ronald Schouten, J.D., M.D.*, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; Director, Law and Psychiatry Service, Massachusetts General Hospital

12:30 LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:30 **PANEL OF ATTORNEYS**

This panel of experienced attorneys from varying perspectives of a case will discuss and analyze matters of critical importance to representing persons with mental illness. Topics covered will include issues related to client and opposing counsel relationships, pre-trial motions, and strategies for trial.

*Stan Goldman, J.D.*, Director, Mental Health Litigation Unit, Committee for Public Counsel Services

*Jeffrey Isaacson, J.D.*, Senior Attorney, Department of Mental Health, Southeastern Area Office

*Thomas F. Schiavoni, J.D.*, Attorney, McGee & Schiavoni

*Robert Weber, J.D.*, Attorney, Weber & Baum

3:00 **PANEL OF JUDGES**

Judges with a particular interest in mental health issues will discuss important and sometimes difficult aspects of Rogers and commitment cases, competency determinations, evidentiary submissions, and litigation strategies to maximize representation in these cases.

*Honorable Jonathan Brant*, First Justice, Marlborough Division, District Court Department

*Honorable Kathleen E. Coffey*, First Justice, West Roxbury Division, Boston Municipal Court

*Honorable Rosemary B. Minehan*, First Justice, Wareham Division, District Court Department

*Honorable Kathryn A. White*, Circuit Justice, Plymouth County Division, Juvenile Court Department

4:00 **COMBINED PANELS OF ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES**

All panelists from the two previous sessions will take an in-depth look at problematic discussion points and allow time for questions and participation from the audience.